



The Onyx Informer

WHO THEY *REALLY* ARE

NU'S BLACK AND LATINO MALE ATHLETES DISCUSS
STEREOTYPES AND MISCONCEPTIONS

BLACK PANTHERS : THEN AND NOW

I HATE YOU SO MUCH RIGHT NOW
STUDENTS GET EDUCATED ON HATE CRIMES

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The opinions and feelings expressed in The Onyx Informer are not necessarily those of the Onyx staff or of the Northeastern administration. The Onyx is a publication run by undergraduate students who oversee all aspects and operations involving the publication.

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Letter From The Editor

MOTIVATED

FIXING HOME FIRST

At some point in all our lives we've come to an assumption about someone or a situation based on a mere surface evaluation. It's part of the human comfort zone to be able to see something and immediately have it defined, boxed, and stamped with a label.



We often quote Martin Luther King Jr. and proclaim that we too would one day like to be judged by the content of our character and not the color of our skin. Though we agree with our deceased leader's profound vision we cease to realize that our biggest source of judgment doesn't come from the outside but instead within our **own** community.

How many times as children have we been confused when our parents continuously warned us of "those people from over there" when "those people" looked just like us? What's the difference between the stereotypes that others have made for us and those we've created for one another?

Regardless of where they come from stereotypes birth ignorance and hinder forward movement. Together we must reject the lures of misperceptions and labels and free ourselves from mind slavery. Let us commence to tear down the walls and shatter the glass ceilings we've constructed in order to oppress our fellow brothas and sistas. Significant strides cannot be made until we learn to ignore the urge to put one another down and instead build each other up on a foundation of pride in all the differences that make us beautifully extraordinary. Think outside the box.

Peace and Blessings

Kat Noel

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Words of Wisdom

Instead of climbing the walls put up before me I will knock them down so that those who later follow down the same path will never have to acknowledge that a wall ever existed. ~ self



Reflections

The most horrific of crimes ever committed are those that we commit against ourselves. We tend to hate that which we do not know because of our fears of the unknown. The term, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me," is a bit naïve in response to the reality that words, do indeed hurt.

During diversity week here at Northeastern, The Writing on the Wall Project provided students, faculty and staff the opportunity to literally, paint a picture of how words can be hurtful. Over three-hundred cement blocks were painted with words like "nigger" and "fag" and used to build a wall.

The wall displayed the words and stood for four days in front of Snell Library, as an example of the weapons that we use to hate one another; words. However at the end of those four days, a multitude of cultures and ethnicities united to destroy that wall.

Taking a collective stand to educate ourselves about those around us like our families, our friends, and our neighbors, would help downsize hate and its affects on our communities. If we were not so quick to judge a book by its cover, perhaps we may find ourselves enjoying what the book has to offer. Instead of looking the other way when you walk past some one you don't know, why not say hello instead? Simple gestures like this can go a long way and start simply by changing the way that we communicate with one another .

Always,

Adrienne

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SPOTLIGHT



You've probably gotten one of his fliers pumping an upcoming party or heard his radio show, Da Block, on WRRB but do you really know Alex Diaz? Who is he and where does his drive to be a student leader come from?

After a full day of classes Alex Diaz's Tuesday night is just getting starting. As Urban Director of WRRB he's required to attend the station's weekly eboard meetings. When it's his turn to give an update, Alex reports that about one hundred of his records were stolen during the robbery the station experienced a few weeks ago. Though his lost totals about \$1,000 worth of music from his own personal collection Alex has a very mature attitude towards his loss, "That's life, what can you do?"

The eboard meeting runs slightly over time so Alex makes sure to leave a bit early in order to set up for his radio show Da Block. With fifteen minutes before show time he gets himself together and gathers about three crates full of records. It's apparent that Alex has entered his world. Effortlessly he searches through his crates, hooks up the station's equipment, and sets up the turntables. At eight o'clock on the dot a beat kicks in and Alex Diaz becomes DJ Dz.

The self-described "engineer by day and dj by night" got involved on WRBB when he met the former Urban Director Jose Masso during freshmen orientation. Though his first radio show was at four till six in the morning Alex stuck with it and eventually moved up to becoming WRBB's Urban Director and obtaining a primetime show spot.

All is running smoothly until Alex realizes that he accidentally put on the explicit lyric version of Loon's, "How You Want That". When most DJs would get angry and flustered Alex instead stays calm and without skipping a beat changes the song to the edited FCC friendly version.

Fifteen minutes after the show starts Alex's partner in crime since the first grade, Ezra D Hellafella, strolls into the station. As Ezra runs the mic and DJ Dz handles the records the chemistry between the two is undeniable.

It's obvious from jump Da Block isn't like any of those mediocre hip-hop radio shows that litter the airwaves today. Listeners know that from eight to ten on Tuesday nights they can hear some of the hottest hip-hop, reggae, and R&B that's out right now and even some exclusive tracks that other stations aren't even up on yet.

Focused is a word that defines Alex Diaz. In the midst of his peers, that are mostly upperclassmen, he exudes confidence, determination and humility..

"Ever since I was younger people have been telling me how focused I am," Alex says after his show settling into a booth in the library's Cyber Café. "I can't be wasting time. I always need to be doing something that's either benefiting others or me. Since the sixth grade I've been involved with extracurricular activities. It's almost like a need."

He credits his view on the value of time to his hard working parents who often work sixteen-hour days.

Between WRBB, holding the public relations chair position for the Black Engineering Student Society, being peer mentor for the College of Engineering, and working as a part-time community receptionist Alex makes sure to stay on top of his course work and hang with his friends from back home.

"We're not ashamed of where we come from," says the Dominican Lawrence Massachusetts native. "We're proud. A lot of people try and forget and decide to put up a façade of who they really are but if you forget where you're from you'll never succeed where you're going. Me and my real close boys have this thing that we call ghetto corporate. Even when I'm professional I'll party at someone's sweaty basement jam and then on the flipside be in a suit at a corporate event. Ghetto corporate is sort of like flipping it from the real world and the corporate world."

Alex takes his role as a student leader seriously and feels that his responsibility is to look out for the underrepresented student body.

"NU overlooks entertainment for us. I take it upon myself to have fun and to put others on point. I always tell my friends that can do it too. It's all about making sure you're not wasting time".

Though he has already accomplished so much as a sophomore at Northeastern Alex has an aspiration to one day be the General Manager of WRBB and the president of the Black Engineering Student Society. There's no doubt that all of his dreams will most definitely become a reality.

~ Kat Noel



RUNNING THINGS



Giving back to the community, that's what it's all about and Richard Harris is a perfect example of that. Having returned to his alma mater, Harris is now the Director of Multicultural Engineering at Northeastern University.

Originally from Honduras, Mr. Harris came to the United States at the age of five. He grew up in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, also known as 'Do or die Bedsty'. Harris graduated from Northeastern's College of Engineering with an electrical engineering degree.

When asked why he returned to take the position, he replied. "It chose me. I feel that I was called. You know something is right when it all fully comes into place; that means sometimes going out of your comfort zone. I live my life knowing that whatever I do today is building for tomorrow."

While taking a brief moment out of his busy schedule, Mr. Harris took us down memory lane and recollected on his college years here as a Northeastern undergrad.

"The generations today has a different perception of their impact. They do just enough to get by. Back then, we dealt with issues on an international scale. For example, apartheid. We were the last generation to understand the civil rights movement."

Mr. Harris shared that students in the 80's were very active politically within Northeastern's community and the neighboring Roxbury. When he was an undergrad NBSA recruited students to help Melvin King in his campaigning process when he was running for the Mayor of Boston. Harris explained that students were willing to help the community that surrounded them for they realized that even after graduation their impact would still be left behind.

The black and Latino student organizations were also different in the 80's in comparison to today. Each organization had its own individual goal but were still able to work together as one.

Richard Harris' role amongst those groups was often the "chief speaker". He was known for being open, vocal and also respectful. Harris often took part in forums held by the student organizations. The missions of these forums were to eliminate some the misconceptions that plagued that black and Latino student body. Aside from being an active member within the Black Engineering Student Society and the Student Government Association, Harris also participated in the annual oratory competition and cut hair on the side to earn a little money.

Of all the memories that Mr. Harris has of Northeastern the story of how he met his wife, Pam is his fondest and one he is most eager to share.

He remembers the first time he saw his wife while walking through Speare Parking Lot, which is now known as the Merino Center. He was walking with his friend Roger and asked who she was.

"I immediately told him, 'that's the one I'm going to marry'," shared Harris.

Roger warned him that if he wanted to court Pam he would have to 'come correct'. Mr. Harris was unable to pursue her at the time for both he and Pam had partners. A few years later, they were both single and Richard asked her to dance at a conference held by the National Society of Engineers. He later called on her and the rest, as he says, is history. Mr. Harris and his wife are still married today and have three young sons, and a daughter, who recently graduated from Princeton.

As he walks through the same quads and enters the same buildings he did as an undergraduate it is obvious Richard Harris is happy to be back.

"Some students today remind me of the students of yesterday. It's almost like saying if you stay long enough you see people come back through other people. It's kind of like coming back home. Things come full circle, you got to stop and recognize when it's coming back again."

~ Rosena Cornet

Mark Harvey, Program Coordinator for the Office of Special Support Services, walked to the front of the room and allowed his eyes to gaze at the students sitting before him. After a few brief moments of contemplation he spontaneously scrapped his speech and officially commenced the first Unity in Diversity Leadership retreat with a few words from the heart.

"Why are you here?" Harvey passionately asked the students.

Why were about sixty of Northeastern's black and Latino students spending a cold Friday night at the Warren Conference Center? What made those unique individuals sacrifice a weekend and come together? What was their purpose and what were they hoping to gain?

Mark Harvey answered his own question and told the audience that *his* purpose for them was to, "For you to challenge us, for us to challenge you and for all of us to empower each other. Leadership is not about keeping it within yourself but about empowering others."

Sharyn Hinton, Ujima Scholars Counselor, shared a story of the when she was on the eboard of Northeastern's radio station was the hottest station in Boston.

"There's power in unity," stressed Hinton, "Everyone has a little something to bring and when it comes together its bigger then you. This is the beginning of something. You are here for a reason."

On Saturday the students were all given a list entitled, 'Do You Know Them?'. On the list were people such as Jesus Christ, Papa Doc Duvalier, Angela Davis, Malcolm X and Fidel Castro. The students were asked to identify each person and evaluate whether or not they were a good or bad leader. This immediately raised the question of the definition of leader. Students battled with the question whether someone who



stands on immoral principles but owns the ability to gain followers still a leader.

That afternoon guest presenters ,Debora Ferreira and Julius Ford, were brought in from The Harriet Project. Instead of a formal, "hello my name is' Julius instead belted out a moving introduction in a deep poignant tenor. He sang the chorus, 'if you believe in life and you believe in love, the miracle, you will understand that you can not be afraid. You can not runaway', with such spirit and conviction that when he was done the message continued to resonate on the minds of everyone in the room.

Debora's introduction was a poem that gave a definition of who she is.

"Who am I?" she asked her audience, "I am..the tears of the children who are oppressed by the isms...s reflection of you this is who I am. Who are you?"

Debora informed the students that the project was named after Harriet Tubman because its mission is similar to the famous conductor of the Underground Railroad. The Harriet



Project was started in order to free people's minds from mental slavery.

At the age of six Debora immigrated to the United States from the Cape Verde islands. Once on American soil she was faced with the struggle of assimilation. Due to her experience she felt it was necessary to create a safe space for conversation, so that she could do her part in making the world better her soon to be born son.

The Harriet Project has worked with corporations, schools, social justice workshops and prisons.

"Move your ideas into action," Julius encouraged, "because all of us are tired of leadership that just talks. Create worthwhile ventures so that the next generation doesn't have to deal with it."

The 'it' Julius spoke of stood for many of the problems that afflict our society today. Problems such as racism, sexism, and poverty are all issues that must be focused on by our leaders. If ignored their negative impact can only worsen.

The students were divided into three groups and instructed to develop an action plan. Each group was responsible to write down the steps needed to make the plan into a reality.

Ironically in the end each group touched upon the issue of division within historically underrepresented communities. They came to a consensus that in order for us to move together as a people we must "fix home first" and unite on a common cause.

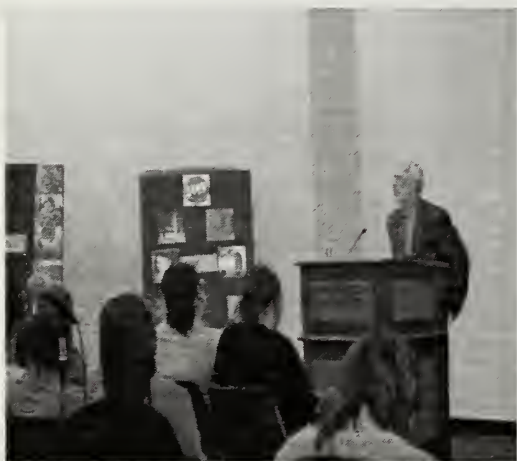
The retreat enveloped all who attended with a sense of empowerment. Each student boarded the bus back to Northeastern with perseverance in their eyes and a purpose on their hearts. They seemed to finally understand that they are the change they wish to see in the world.

~ Kat Noel

I HATE YOU SO MUCH RIGHT NOW

NUNAACP EDUCATES STUDENTS ON HATE

What does it mean to hate? According to Merriam-Webster, hate is an "intense hostility and aversion, usually



deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury; extreme dislike or antipathy." The million-dollar question why do we continue to do this to each other, on a daily basis?

Northeastern's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People helped to enlighten students, faculty and staff on causes of hate during a panel discussion, about hate crimes past, present and future.

After attending an event over the summer about racism, Northeastern students Kimberly

Washington and Whitney Montgomery decided to have a panel discussion to address the issue of Hate Crimes. Panelists included Alice Moore, chief of the public protection bureau for the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General and Sergeant-Detective Carmen Curry, of the Boston Police Department's Community Disorder's Unit.

"We just wanted to do it," said Montgomery, also a middler criminal justice major and education chair for the NU chapter of the NAACP, "to find out what it meant."

"Whitney Montgomery and I went to an event in the summer called "White Men Against Racism. It was a panel discussion with 4 white men discussing their experiences, and it was also a book review by the same title" said Washington. "From that event, we developed a question, that was somewhat related—what

does it mean when a white supremacist burns a cross in someone's yard? What does



that symbolize?" From that question, we decided to not just make the event about white supremacist activity, but about Hate Crimes in general."

The rationale behind hate crimes is that if you are different, then you don't have a right to exist. What makes these crimes all the more devastating is that they are not carried out against a particular individual because of animosity toward that person, but more so because of the group to which that person identifies with, i.e. African-

American, Hispanic, lesbian or homosexual, etc.

"Hate crimes are crimes targeted at people because of who they are. If you are perceived to be different, then you are a target no matter who you are," said Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research of NU's College of Criminal Justice Jack McDevitt. "You can be attacked because you're

thrown through the window of their home because they did not decorate their home with Christmas lights as the rest of the neighborhood had done.

"It's easy to look at hate crimes as isolated incidents [by whackos]," said Barbara Dougan, project director in non-profit law office that specializes in discrimination claims based on race or national origin. "We see it [hate crimes] as the ultimate form of discrimination."

In most cases, hate crimes are carried out by people whom we interact day-to-day, not necessarily the stereotypical skinhead or bigot.

Hate crimes are

also not just carried out against one particular group of individuals, but can also occur between those individuals within the same group. These crimes can take place any time, with High Schools and Universities being the third most common location.

"The people who commit these crimes are not who the media depicts them to be," said Dougan. "They're committed by classmates or the kid on your football team."

Those who are most impacted by these crimes are the victims.

"Hate crimes send large amount of fear and terror into the lives of the victim," said Andrew Tarsey, eastern states counsel and Civil Rights director for the Anti-Defamation League. "If you're the victim, your fear is that it's everybody. You carry the cause of the incident."

As far as taking steps to combat hate crimes, educating ourselves more about those around us would help.

"If diversity is infused in curriculums then all students have a chance to learn about each other," said Dean and Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Diversity. "We could also develop intergroup relations programs, which are designed to promote honest dialogue and learning between members of the campus community."

~Adrienne Thomas

black, because you're white, because you're Latina/o. If you're perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, you're attacked. Anyone is vulnerable." Jack McDevitt is also Director of the Institute on Race and Justice and the Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research.

One incident of a hate crime occurred in a home for boys, where a young man was forcibly held down, while a swastika was being drawn on his chest because of his Jewish beliefs. Another involved a mother and her family, who had a brick



WHERE'S THE REVOLUTION? & IS IT BEING TELEVISED

Che Guevera, Malcolm X, and Huey Newton are back. They're images can be found today on all types of paraphernalia. Does the reappearance of red, black and green wristbands, Angela Davis t-shirts, and natural hairstyles mean that the revolution has returned or are the images and thoughts of our early radical leaders being simply exploited by the commercial market?

An orchestra plays as the images of a distorted P.Diddy and Whitney Houston appear on a screen. It's the Black Panther Suite. Concept composed and created by Asian political activist Fred Ho. Ho describes the Suite as a 'revolutionary vision quest that brings legacy missions of the early 60s and 70s. It's a way forward for all oppressed people'. He created the Black Panther Suite for he felt that the spirit and politics of the movement needed to be correctly conveyed.

The Black Panthers were a political party that was started in California in 1966. The two founders of the party were Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, who believed that the efforts of the civil rights movement were not completely successful. The four desires of the party were equality in education, housing, employment and civil rights. As the recognition of the organization grew within the African-American and other historically underrepresented communities so did its notoriety with government factions causing the media to portray the Panthers as heartless haters of the entire white race.

"Recent portrayals of the Black Panthers have been watered down distortions," said the composer, "Gross distortions like Melvin Van Peebles 'Panther' and Spike Lee's 'Malcolm X' were missing the word revolution."

Ho came of age during a time of fundamental, political and social change, which he believes was key in attempting to eliminate sexism, racism, and capitalism. Ho claims that the same problems exist today but they have gotten worse for the mainstream has actually widened the gap. So if we as people are still struggling today why aren't there mass sit-ins and protests? Have we become apathetic or complacent?

"The young generation has been seduced by the system. They are the beneficiaries of the struggle that came before them," stated Ho, "They live in a consumer oriented culture fed on self gratification. Youth need to raise their political consciousness. Many young people do not challenge the system. They just want to get over. The youth don't know revolutionary history and have culturally been stifled by a bitter society. All they can do now is accept what we have today, the CocaCola, Gap, and McDonald version of revolution."

Ho feels that today's generation is apathetic due to the fact that they have 'pitiful examples to follow'. On television and in magazines they are constantly bombarded by the images of famous people who are concerned with the attainment of more material wealth and not the plight of their fellow people. Artist that we consider 'socially aware' like Erykah Badu and Common, Ho views them as being 'watered down and luke warm' when it comes to aiding the movement.

"I don't see them as revolutionaries. True artists, sheroes and heroes like John Coltrane, Josephine Baker, and Duke Ellington never became minstrel shows. Today's artists are not about trying to raise the consciousness of the people. They just want you to buy, buy, buy, buy, buy."

Ho points out that even athletes today don't compare to those like to Muhammed Ali who lost his title when he refused to enter the Vietnam War or the Olympic athletes who raised the black power salute in Mexico City. He deems that 'consciousless people like Oprah and Michael Jordan don't really challenge the system. Instead they make people feel that it's the matter of their attitudes that need adjusting'.

"Becoming bourgeois and upper middle class is not the solution. It doesn't change any kind of 'ism'. Oppressed people don't need more self esteem they need more consciousness," passionately stated Ho.

In 1989 the New Black Panther Party was created. Today there are over thirty-two chapters around the country. Not everyone's reaction to the NBPP has been positive. Bobby Seale and Fredricka Newton, Huey Newton's wife, have actually spoken out against the new organization. On the Dr. Huey Newton Foundation website a statement was released declaring the following: "*As guardian of the true history of the Black Panther Party, the Foundation, which includes former leading members of the Party, denounces this group's exploitation of the Party's name and history. Failing to find its own legitimacy in the black community, this band would graft the Party's name upon itself, which we condemn.*"

Jamahrl Crawford, Chairman of the Boston chapter of the New Black Panther Party and author of Prophecy: Reflections of Life and Love From a Black Prospective, understands where the founders of the Foundation are coming from but disagrees with their viewpoint. He believes that the definition of revolution is change and that the original Black Panther members must understand that when they started the movement they *too* were the misunderstood youths of their time.

"The problems has not been solved so why are you chilling?" asks Crawford, "The New Black Panther Party is simply picking up the baton of the revolutionary struggle."

Some of the problems that exist today are disparities in the education system with in communities mostly made up of historically underrepresented people, racial profiling, and the spread of AIDS.

"One white life is worth one hundred black lives on the white scale of justice. Our lives to them don't mean anything on the grand scheme of things. We need to rediscover ourselves and find self worth within ourselves."

The media has falsely depicted the Panthers as an organization that hates and is against the white race. Crawford pointed out that black people have spent so much time wondering and worrying about what white people think.

He emphasized that his mission is not to 'save whitey' because black people have enough of their own struggles and 'white people can save themselves'.

The appeal of the New Black Panther Party is that it speaks and represents the 'common man', the young people and those living in the hood.

"The Panthers are for the people. There are too many groups out there who dance around the issues. How about speaking upon the issue that we've got black people in the army fighting for a people who don't give a s*** about them?"

Crawford agrees with Ho that films made by directors like Spike Lee are 'more progressive then Master P movies but they're still not progressive enough'.

"The richer and more powerful people become the more they get bought into the system. The nicer the house they have they become a little less angry. The more beautiful their wife is they become a little less angry. Look at Spike. He has made films like "Malcolm X" and "Bamboozled" but between those films were bull**** like "Girl 6". Why did Steven Spielberg make Amistad? Why does it take a white man to make a black movie? There is a place for everything but there needs to be a balance. We can have our chitlin circuit type of films and then the Hollywood type too but what about the Nat Turner story? How about films that have to do with moving toward liberation like Harriet Tubman and Ida B. Wells? Now that's a story."

Crawford believes that the black and Latino communities are full of resources that simply need to be completely utilized

"We as people need to use what we got to get what we want," declared Crawford, "We shouldn't have to wait for anything. We have to get our s*** together. We are not minorities. Lets come together and work towards anything, it doesn't have to be burning down America. Just something little like spending money in black and Latino communities."

~ Kat Noel

RoundTable

misconceptions, misperceptions, misrepresentations

WHO ARE NORTHEASTERN'S BLACK AND LATINO ATHLETES?

The purpose of the Roundtable section of The Onyx Informer is to openly deconstruct stereotypes and bring controversial topics to the forefront.

We know them on the court and the field as the athlete that helped bring home the championship or scored the winning touchdown but do we really know Northeastern's black and Latino athletes? Lloyd Collins, Bryan McCants, Carlos Garcia, and Charles Cameron sat down with Kat Noel, Adrienne Thomas, Lisa Miller, Marley Pierre Louis, Melissa Potter, and Whitney Montgomery to discuss the stereotypes that surround black and Latino college athletes and to reveal who they *really* are.

KN: I've noticed that athletes come to Northeastern and you're considered a 'student athlete', though there seems to be more of an emphasis on the athletic aspect. Do you consider yourself an athlete first or a student first?

BM: I'll start that off right now. In a lot of Division I schools that's basically what people think when you first come to school, like, 'this kid's here to be an athlete before he is a student'. In my situation, I still came to school for me, to get an education and no matter what that's going to be the main priority because you won't be able to run unless you make the grades.

KN: What's your major?

BM: Sociology and special education

KN: There are some athletes that do criminal justice and some athletes that do

business and there are organizations here at Northeastern that are focused on business, criminal justice and sociology, but at those meetings you never see any of the athletes there. I



understand that you're at practice but isn't it the responsibility of the coaches to push you towards those major focused organizations?

LC: When I was competing I tried to really extend myself. I was apart of NABA and I couldn't really indulge myself in that because basically practice took up a lot of my time. I was able to go to a meeting here and there. As far as the coaches go, basically, they have a job to do. That's all they're concerned about. Just as long as your grades are straight and you're on top of it, then you're

good to go. Their job is to win and...

BM: Produce points. You're a point

LC: Yeah. They want to be successful, the best they can. It's really on the athlete. If you choose to push yourself as far as you can, then, it will work out.

Generally, the coaches are not going to stop you.

KN: The coaches never say 'guys, I heard about this business organization. I think you should go'?

ATHLETES: NO!

BM: There's no reason for them to put their hand into that unless you're doing bad.

KN: What's the minimum GPA you can have as an athlete?

ATHLETES: LAUGH

LC: There's a grey area. It can be around a 1.6 or 1.5.

BM: I know people who have been a .5 and still have competed-

CG: When they weren't supposed to...

BM: and then magically their GPA just went up

MPL: "Magically"?

KN: "Magically" like they put in work and then it went up?

LC: I can't call it.

KN: If you come to Northeastern, you're a criminal justice major and I'm a criminal justice major. I don't play a sport and I'm working my butt off to be here so that in the end I can earn my criminal justice degree. Then as an athlete you graduated with a 1.5 but earn the same criminal

justice degree that I did. That's kind of unfair because we're sitting here competing for the same jobs and you didn't put in as much work as I did to get that same degree.

LC: But your GPA is higher, so what's the problem? Regardless, there are people out there who don't play sports who have 1.5s. They are in the job pool too. It's what you do with it. Everyone's degree is on the table. That's generic. Your degree is basic. It goes deeper than that.

MPL: Doesn't that bother you that you're sent here they pay for you to go to school to be a student athlete but you spend a lot more time on the athlete part? You and Kat both go for the same job but you are at a disadvantage because you spent four years of your life chasing after a ball or running on a track.

CG: It's also priorities because they provide study hall time for all athletes.

MPL: Maybe you guys are special cases but a lot of the athletes I know go because they have to. Their GPA still sucks because they all had this vision that, 'I'm going to the league'. Let's be real.

BM: In that fashion right there you're saying that some of those kids wouldn't even be in college. So that athletics opened up a big door for a lot of those people.

MPL: Exactly and they're not taking advantage of it.

BM: That's their choice then. That's their priority. You have to understand being a student athlete; your priorities are your choice. I get out of practice and I still go to the library after. Half the freshmen girls on our team they're in the library all the time, as soon as they get out of practice till their next class. I'm in their also all the time doing my work.

CG: The sport is just a key to open up a door for you.

MPL: In general, and maybe I'm feeding into another stereotype, athletes are more inclined to worry about their sport then school. Do you think that you guys need someone to tell you that your school work is slacking?

CG: Yeah, we have someone in Athletic Support Services that sets us up with our schedules and tutors. Their job is to help us out with our academics.



BM: On the other side their job is to keep you eligible and playing at least for that one season.

~

KN: Do any of you have dreams of becoming professional athletes?

BM: Everybody does

LC: I have to be realistic with myself. My eligibility is up.

MPL: Does that blur your vision of your future? I've actually heard someone say, 'I didn't come here to go to school. I came here to play ball'. He really thinks that he's going to the NBA after college. He doesn't care and does the bare minimum. That vision of going to the league is blurring what he's actually supposed to be here for.

LC: That's deeper then just here. That's probably from when he

was eight years old playing ball and no one ever put him on.

KN: Coaches stress that you have to do well and win, win, win, win, win but at the same time they're focusing on one factor of the person you are. I'm thinking that you're whole view on life isn't to just be a ball player. Hopefully you want to earn a degree and have a job. You're going to be in the same job market as I am and on my resume I have co-ops and organizations. You can have that degree but not really have anything to back it up. I know older men today who used to be college athletes and they're holding down minimum wage jobs. They earned their degree but have nothing to show for it. Out of all the athletes black and Latino athletes are cheated the most. You're being used to produce something and earn the university a lot of money but in the end when you're done what is Northeastern going to do for you?

BM: That's basically what it is. You have to realize being an athlete the first thing that you should know is that you're a point. I'm sorry if you don't know that because that's really on you. They already gave you your opportunity. You have to take your opportunity and go with it. When you first come here you're a point. Sherman looks at me and after I'm done he doesn't want to talk to me. If I can score ten points for Sherman he'll say, 'good job' and not even shake my hand.

~

KN: Do athletes go on co-op?

LC: It depends on what sport. With basketball the way their schedule is they can only go on co-op spring/summer.

KN: What about that program where they have athletes doing construction around campus?

LC: Some people do that for part-time work because you can't get work-study if you're on full scholarship.

KN: What about using that free time to get a co-op job?

BM: That's on them. You have to be selective of your co-ops. That's their own selection. They feel they can take their co-op time, play around on Northeastern's campus, sleep till two and still get paid for it.

LC: We are all grown. You're eighteen plus. You should know what the hell you're doing with yourself. We're not that naive. If you're in college you have a mind in your head, some how and some way. You know what's right and wrong. If you choose to bulls**t then you know that you're bulls**tting your time here.

They know what they're doing and that's just their choice. At the same time you have those people who are doing their thing, not paying a lick of tuition; they have the banging co-op jobs, and good GPA.

~

WM: Do you wish sometimes that you were just a student or are you comfortable being an athlete at Northeastern?

BM: There are pluses and minuses to that.

CG: I'm not going to front free trips to Florida is great.

LC: When I'm in the library, it's eleven o'clock and I'm just beat it's like, 'damn man why am I even running right now?'. Most times when I'm out there competing I feel that I would do this forever if I could.

KN: Do you ever get tired of being with your own team all the time? Do you ever see an event on campus and wish that you attended? Most athletes don't come in the Institute and don't go into the LSCC when these facilities are for all of us.

LC: Cabot becomes home. You practice there so much and you know people there.

CC: With the football team there's no time.

LC: You all live in there.

CC: You don't understand how much unnecessary time we invest in football. Mondays are our only days free. Tuesdays we leave from Northeastern to go to Parson's Field at three o'clock and we don't come back till eight



thirty, and then Wednesdays we have meeting at student activities period where some other organizations may be holding things. We don't have time for anything. It's a fulltime job and then we go to school.

KN: Do you ever wish you could come to the Institute and the LSCC?

CC: I don't know.

LC: I'm doing it now in my fifth year.

KN: When I have my kids there is so much I can tell them about my Northeastern experience. What is an athlete going to tell their children about their experience other then sports?

BM: Cabot was great.

EVERYONE LAUGHS

CG: I know mad people outside of athletics just because you have to put yourself out there. It's not that

hard. It's not like you're teammates are going to shun you if you go and talk to someone outside of your team. People have a stereotype that athletes are stuck up and that we won't associate ourselves with anyone who isn't an athlete. It's not the case at all.

KN: Aren't you tired of seeing each other all the time?

CG: I think it's different for track versus football.

CC: Personally I wasn't introduced to the Institute. I didn't know what the Institute had to offer. Basically my interest level for the Institute is low.

KN: If someone was to come to you with a flier advertising an event at the Institute would you come?

CC: I don't know. To tell you the truth, no.

LM: You guys honestly believe you're not cliquish?

CC: It's somewhat like a semi fraternity.

CG: You're with these people so many hours out of the week. You have no choice but

to get close with them.

CC: No matter if you like the person or not you have to build a certain type of relationship with them. No matter what beef you have there has to be a sound relationship established because you're on the same team.

CG: You all have the same goal that you're striving for. You compete for the same purpose and that brings you closer whether you want it to or not.

LC: Track is so much different though then football. It's more individual. Half the people on the team I don't chill with. I do my event. I do me. I make the team do well by me doing well. If I'm not doing me then we're not going to do well. It's very self-centered.

BM: Then again at the end when we win as a team everyone is there together.

~

KN: What about you work hard and put your all into something and one day it's all done? You tear your ACL and you can't play anymore. Any moment it can be done for you.

CC: That's the risk you have to take. That's part of the sport.

KN: Some athletes take that risk and I'm under the impression that not all of them have a full scholarship.

CC: There are athletes that take that risk who are not on scholarship.

LC: Only a few people get full scholarships, a couple get partial and then that's it. Out of the football team how many are on full scholarship?

CC: Probably like a good seventy or fifty.

MPL: Seventy? How many people are on the team?

LM: About a hundred.

LC: Tracks even worst. There's maybe nine.

CG: Between the guys and the girls.

LC: So no one is really seeing money.

KN: How can you risk injuring yourself forever for a sport that may not be giving you much money?

BM: It's the opportunity to be a part of a Division I track team or football team. You step into the limelight and you want to perform.

KN: Do you ever want to give it up and quit?

CG: I hate track practice. I just love running in meets and competing. That's what keeps me going. The thrill of being on the track, beating somebody and getting better that's what keeps me.

LC: It's not one hundred percent retention. People come and decide it's not for them.

~

MPL: How do you feel about this so called "celebrity" status athletes have on campus?

KN: Someone brought to my attention that there are athletes who live in Davenport and West Village. That person was saying that she feel it's

unfair for athletes to live in the top of the line housing when some don't pay for it.

LC: Scholarship. They're putting their butt out there.

CC: We're like assets. We have potential to bring revenue into the school. We're putting ourselves out there at meets and football games. We represent the school.

BM: If we win Division I AA we bring a lot of money into the



school through alumni and NCAA.

LC: We're in the lottery just like you all.

KN: What about in classes? There's this one athlete who is not too bright and got an A in the course. When a friend of mine worked her butt off in the same course and didn't get an A.

LC: Maybe that does happen but there are a lot of people who sleep their way through classes as well.

KN: People in general or athletes?

LC: People. If an occasional athletes gets hooked up, that happens. There are other students who aren't athletes who get hooked up as well.

MPL: That happens a lot less often.

LC: You'd be surprised what a V-neck sweater could do.

KN: I barely see any professors at the games so what would they gain from giving an athlete a good grade?

LC: Maybe from higher above they may get that good elbow.

KN: Do your grades ever get "mysteriously" bumped up?

LC: I wish. They've "mysteriously" gone down.

BM: When we have away meets they sometimes give us an exception.

KN: What about those students who can't pay tuition and have to work three jobs? Should they get that exception also?

BM: There's a woman in my class right now who has a kid and is working two jobs. The teacher gave her an extension. I feel for her because I understand.

KN: Is there ever a millisecond that you feel that you're above everyone else in the student body?

MPL: Running s**t.

LC: My fifth year I feel blessed because I'm not even running and I'm still getting my

scholarship. I put in my time those other four years. This is just a continuation of that hard work. I honestly feel we're all equal. Northeastern is not as bad as some other places.

~

KN: I know a lot of black and Latino females who want to relate and go talk to the athletes. I hear a lot of black and Latino athletes say they don't want to deal with black and Latino females because we're too difficult. Personally I have no problem with interracial relationships. I feel that it's "easier" for athletes to approach a white female than a black female.

AT: What is it exactly? Do you feel that black and Latino women are too critical? What's difficult? Are we not supportive enough? Are white females seen as "easier"?

MPL: Or is it just you all?

LC: I think that a lot of sistas on campus already have a negative image of athletes. Right from the jump we're labeled as damaged goods. We're the enemy and we haven't said hello yet.

MPL: Is it only black females who have that stereotype? Do you think that white females don't think that about you?

LC: I'm sure they do as well.

KN: What stereotypes do athletes have about black and Latino women that keeps them away?

LC: There's so much gossiping that goes around. Nothing is really sacred on this campus. Whoever does whatever with whom ever it's held against them. I think that's bad.

BM: When you try to branch out and actually approach black females they give you the cold shoulder for no reason. They already have the stereotype that you are a dog and just an athlete. You can't really approach the person after that. Since we're such a small group on this campus everybody knows everyone's business.

KN: Some athletes get defensive and make the excuse that black and Latino females are not trying to give it up. In the same breathe they will claim to want to marry only black and Latino females. How are you going to get that experience when you're not building it in college?

LC: There are fast minority women on campus just as well as you have white groupies.

KN: Have you had personnel experience with groupies?

LC: You're coming from practice and they have your stats down.

CG: They know all about you and you don't even know their name.

KN: There's an exception for brothas and even more of an exception for athletes. Let's talk about Kobe. He allegedly raped the young woman but no one is really focusing on the fact that he cheated on his wife. It's kind of like everyone has the attitude that he's an athlete and that's what they do. Do you feel that's fair?

BM: NBA and college sports are on two different levels.

MPL: But it starts in college.

LC: It starts in your household. It's you mom and your pops. It's deeper then that.

LM: There are a lot of promiscuous athletes out there.

CG: Yeah

LM: That's where the stereotypes stem from.

CG: There are a lot of pretty dudes out there who aren't athletes and are going around



cheating. It's just athletes are more well known because we're the dudes you see in the school newspaper for winning this or that championship. People look out for us more.

LC: If it's handed to you what are you going to do?

LM: If a female had that attitude you wouldn't want to take her to your mother.

KN: So why should she give you the time of day?

LC: You can have what's real and have what's not real. We're not that naive. You know when it's just a booty call. If you see someone that's special out there you're going to put that honest effort in. You can tell from ten minutes of conversation where a girl's head is at.

BM: I feel that it's really hard to approach black females on this campus.

CG: A lot of you all have attitudes and some serious issues.

LM: That's a stereotype right there. Don't you know better then to be stereotyping people?

CG: It's the truth. I'm talking from my experience and the experiences of others that I have spoken to.

LM: If a black female sees a guy only associating with white girls that black female will automatically think that's his thing.

LC: It's an ugly world.

KN: I've even heard an athlete say that black girls are ugly.

LC: Whoa that's him. You can't put that on everybody.

KN: For that person a black or Latino female is who you come from.

MPL: Exactly. That's basically saying your momma is ugly and your sister. You're perpetuating everything you've been taught that says what is beautiful and what isn't. You're continuing that instead of educating yourself

and finding out where the idea comes from.

LC: Some people come to college and just want to try it. They may come from a predominantly black area and are curious.

LM: That's fine. It's alright if that's your preference but you know you're black right?

LC: Do you think it's one hundred percent(of athletes who are interracial dating)?

LM: As far as athletes, in particular football players, you are notorious for dating white women. In fact f**king white women actually. I honestly see more interracial dating then I see same race relationships.

CC: It's less effort. You have to put a lot of effort into a black female. There's more commitment needed.

MP: Why do some of these athletes come from all black communities but once they get here rely on white females to cook them food and do their laundry?
CG: When something like that happens you have to realize that it's more then a relationship. You're being used.

~

KN: Are there any stereotypes that athletes have about white females?

AT: Are they easy? I mean what?

LM: I know there's a stereotype that they give the (oral sex).

CC: I guess they're more down to do certain things. You don't have to put that much effort. As soon as they talk the window opens. With a black female you really got to put in some work and earn that privilege to get into that window or see that window open.

LM: Earn that respect? It should be like that right?

MPL: Is it a problem because we have respect for ourselves?

CC: Another reason is that we're coming in from a long day of practice.. Majority of the time black male athletes are not trying to go through anything; we're not trying to work hard for anything.

LM: It shouldn't be viewed as having to work for it. You should look at it as how it should be.

LC: If I was to put a strong effort into getting nothing but white females it wouldn't happen. It's just not me. Maybe it's the way I look or how I carry myself. There are a lot of guys out there who are looking for sistas. They may be tired from practice but they're out there looking.

KN: You can't judge all black and Latino females by just a few.

BM: The same goes for athletes because that's where stereotypes come from.

LC: I think we should have a day we all just make two lines, shake hands and get to know one another.

BM: There are more white females then black females on campus. So you're outnumbered.

MPL: Then you just have to come correct.

WM: Do athletes look for a serious relationship?

CC: No.

WM: If you don't want a serious relationship then let us know that.

CC: How do we let you know that? If we say that then we're viewed as losers.

KN: Honesty can go a long way. Even if it doesn't work out then you'll feel better about yourself because you cut all the bulls**t.

~

BM: One thing I'm asking you all to do is not to be so defensive.

LC: I'm telling you we need to form two lines. Handshake and a hug.

KN: No one is asking for athletes to be at the Institute everyday and become Dean Petty's new secretary. All we're asking is that if someone hands you a flier for an event just put an extra effort to show face. What about you other then being a student or an athlete, would you want people to know?

BM: I play the bagpipes. It was a dare when I was a little kid and I've been playing ever since.

LC: I feel that I was put here to do something real positive. I don't know what yet but something real important. I'm trying to do as much as I can and make the most out of it. Ultimately I want to be successful. I want to be MJ without dunking the basketball.

KN: What's your major?

LC: Accounting.

BM: I pretty much know what I want to do. I'm going out to California and running for Reebok. After that a few friends and I are opening up a school.

KN: What about you Cam?

CC: I'm a sociology major. I guess I like to work. I'm motivated to work.

KN: What do you want to do with sociology.

CC: Nothing. I plan on going to grad school. I'm trying to have my

own business. It wouldn't be related to sports.

~ **Kat Noel &
Adrienne Thomas**



HAITI

Tell Me Where You're From

On January 1st, 2004 all Haitians, in Haiti and all over the world, celebrated the 200th anniversary of Haiti's independence.

In the middle of the 17th century, Haiti became a French colony and African slaves were imported to the island in order to work the land. By 1780, Haiti was one of the wealthiest regions in the world. Finally in 1791 the people of the island successfully revolted against their French oppressors. They conquered the French regime and officially became the first black independent nation in 1804.

Haitians have influenced the world as intellectuals, activists, doctors and musicians. One of those influential Haitians is Edwidge Danticat, who has written three novels to date, Breath, Eyes and Memory, Krik! Krak!, and The Farming of Bones which narrates the massacre of Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. There is also Jean-Michel Basquiat who was born in New York in 1960 to a Haitian father and Puerto Rican mother. Basquiat gained instant notoriety doing graffiti art under the name SAMO at the age of 17. The New York Times wrote an article, calling him the "James Dean of the art world" and BBC culture critic, Tony Parson called him "perhaps the greatest black artist of the twentieth century".

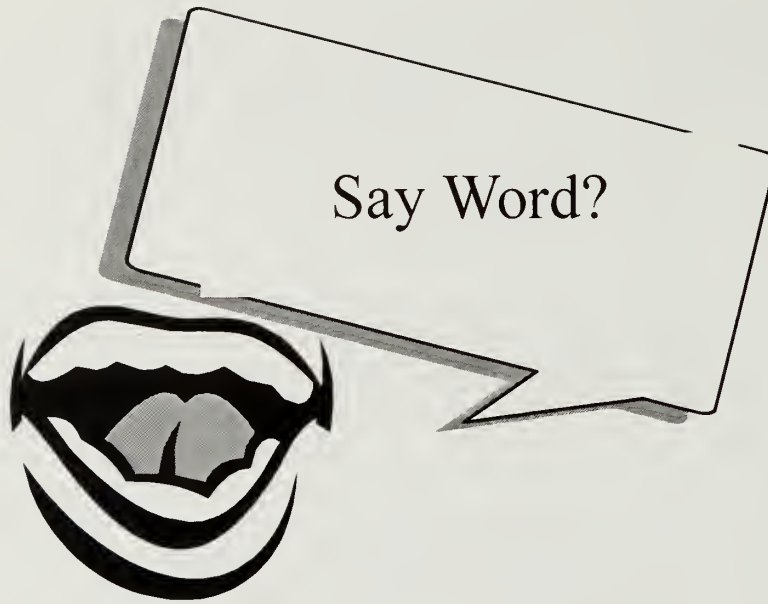
With all these achievements, Haiti remains in the worst state of the environment in the Caribbean, it is one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere and the political upheavals are continuous and violent. In spite of the country's poverty Haitians are instilled with a strong sense of pride.

At the arrival of our bicentennial Haitians stand proud and wear your red and blue flags. It's important you know that you come from a long history of struggle and triumph. The first independent black republic was built on the blood, sweat and tears of people who had a vision for a country that's full of culture, passion, and history.

~ Marley Pierre-Louis

Helpful Haitian Websites

www.cruisingintohistory.org
www.sakepasemag.com
http://haitisupport.gn.apc.org/10_fam_main.html#ptop
www.sakapfet.com
www.everythinghaitian.com
www.haitinchildren.com
www.haitiantimes.com
www.bostonhaitian.com



These Senior Eyes Don't Lie: Chapter 1

I sit in Snell Quad, yes it has a name other than 'in front of the library', eating some yogurt and one of those dry muffins they sell at Crossroads. I sit there, and I reflect on five years gone by.

I watch students bustling around me; some of them late for class or rushing back to their dorms to go back to sleep. In the mix I notice a handful of faces that look very eager yet discouraged at the same time. This face is somewhat hazy to me but it begins to become more familiar. It is the face of a freshman.

Not sure where exactly their classes are but scared to ask anyone because then their ultimate fear will be revealed. Hearing those words , "you're a freshmen?" I remember those words oh too well.

My freshmen year set the foundation for the life I would live for five years, in a place I never thought I would love to hate...Boston. A quiet shy home girl from the Bronx, came to Boston and took on challenges and experiences, struggles, fights, loves and losts she nver thought she would encounter. Each one helping to fertilize in the cultivation of a new life waiting to be lived.....

- Nema Jackson

If you are interested in contributing to the Say Word? section of The Onyx Informer send all writing to:
say_wordonyx@yahoo.com



SOUL SPEECH

soul speech

SOUL SPEECH

soul speech

Yo hablo Un poquito Español

I ran toward the train and had exactly seven minutes to catch the commuter rail from Bridgewater to Boston. Even with my duffel bag hanging diagonally over my shoulder, a Donkin Donuts coffee, my pink purse and my poetry book, I managed to keep a reasonable running speed all the way to the opening of the train door. I stopped at the threshold to catch my breath, then, I headed toward locating one of my favorite seats—the window seat. I like to look out of the window as the train moves to watch the autumn leaves. They flow with the wind, town-by-town, stop-by-stop to mesh lands and water streams, these good adventures have always been pleasing to watch.

Situated in my seat, I was preoccupied by the thought of the fifty-minute ride that usually goes by faster when I am reading. I pulled out one of my favorite poetry books, entitled, *Divine Nepotism*, by Tracey Michea'l Lewis. Whenever I open this book in particular, I usually sit and read line for line, over and over just to capture the details. My eyes were glued to the first few lines of her poem "Business as Usual":

Beat Down.
Repeatedly.
Emotionally.
Mentally Suffocating
thru the trails of ignorant conversations that fall
frequently from your lips...

"Her words reminded me of my own thoughts, and how men sometimes don't understand the madness that often penetrates through the soul of women like waves currents bursting up to sea level. Women go mad alone bleeding a different blood than men."

...Continuously.
Succumbing to the fantasy of picket fences and nuclear families
All the while staring blankly at the reality of broken promises
and shattered expectations...

Suddenly, abruptly, my eyes keenly looked up from that page. I have never smelled a scent so vivid, so capturing. The scent was enough to force me to stop what I was doing to locate where it was coming from.

It wasn't just any smell. It was something light and electrifying. I placed my two fingers between pages 53 and 54 of my poetry book and stopped—to hold my thought.

The second that I lifted my eyes, his deep dimples greeted me first, then, I noticed as he situated himself in the seat, that he was wearing a pair of two-toned beige and brown colored jeans with patches on the knees, a

cream jacket with leather boots that matched. I was impressed. Too reticent to say hello or even continue to look his way, I focused all my attention out of the window instead. From the time that I got a whiff of his MAC cologne, I felt an immediate connection. He sat across from me the entire ride, reading the *Brockton Gazette*. I would look over in his direction and then slowly turn my head after he'd give me eye contact.

His eyes
met mine
three times to be exact.
Emotions seemingly built.
Forming mutual smirks from
Him to me.

As my eyes began to water and flutter, it seemed as though butterflies surfaced filling my stomach, my hands were moist—

I was encountering an ambiance of emotional build up from a smell that appeared so sweet.

There were 10 minutes before the train reached its destination, of South Station. I gathered my belongings, concentrating on whether I should say the first words in spite of my fear, or anticipate on allowing this gentleman to act on the reciprocated feelings?

Five minutes after the conductor stated, "South Station, next stop."

I made up my mind to just exit the train without saying a thing.

As I walked off the commuter rail, I heard a familiar phrase echo from behind me in a deep voice, but I was not quite sure what was actually being said. A woman walking by me pointed to the gentleman behind me and said, "Excuse me miss, I think he is trying to get your attention." I stopped, turned and looked and there he was, the gentleman from the commuter rail. My heart dropped, my nerves arose to the occasion. I was very much surprised with his presence. He stood about forty inches across from me. I noticed his round shaped, deep brown gorgeous eyes. They captured me first. Then, I was taken by the way in which he stood still, politely posing in place. He seemed well mannered from just that observation alone.

Our eyes met again, as he walked closer to where I was standing. I waited off to the side, with an appreciation of his dare to approach me. In those few minutes of him taking steps that seemed like baby ones, I was unsure of what to expect.

I paused, thinking...

What if he needs directions? I asked myself. What if he wants my attention to tell me I have a huge stain on the back of my pants? Who knows?

I paused as he came closer, knowing all the while it was more than an informative excuse me miss, you have a coffee stain on your pants—I watched his lips move forming the question, Coma Te Llamo? Okay, He speaks Spanish, I thought.

At first I panicked, this could not be happening to me, I thought. I have one year of Spanish under my belt, let me try this again. I took a deep breath nothing came to mind. I officially went blank. As he waited for my reply, my faced turned red. I could smell the fresh sense of his MAC cologne closer to my nostrils. My name. That is what he asked me.

Sasha! Me Llamo Sasha, I exclaimed. I thought of a few other phrases that I could say to keep the conversation going. I remembered how to ask how are you in Spanish. I said to him, "Como Estás?"

At this point I could only detect pieces of what he was saying. I knew the language being spoken was Spanish; I tried to recall all the terms that I have ever heard, still that was not enough Spanish to continue conversing. This could not be happening to me, I thought again. I tried to remember every Spanish term I ever heard or knew. Nonetheless, this was not enough to unite our emotions, but it was enough to

bring the connection to light. We must have stared at each other for almost five minutes without saying a word, before I stated, “Yo hablo un poquito español.”

I was annoyed, frustrated, disappointed all at one time. I wanted to share new moments with this attractive person who I connected with so fearlessly. I wanted to get to know him as a person. The expression on his face changed to a slight frown, he said, No hablo ingles.

We were both lost—without speech, without any expression. And so we stood a few inches apart from one another, waiting for miracle to occur—A miracle that involved us making additional connections without words. I came to the realization that there are barriers that often impede, interrupt and sway connections between men and women. In this case it was language.

~

Ms.Interpreted

Say word, like to saw you the other day,
You passed my way and asked me to share
A verse with you and of course I complied
And batted my eyes at what stood before me,
All of you and then some
Your flirtation begun
With how I compliment you like the sea
And the shore and the sunset and the
Horizon, is it me just realizing that you make
Me feel like the half to your whole,
You engaged me in conversation and we shared
Phrases and anecdotes...
I glanced at the columns of your mind while
You peeked at the pages of my interests-yes can you
Read between the lines?
You caressed my intellect and won me over
Now I want to know if I can come over..
Say word, like to saw you the other day,
You passed my way and I wish you would
Have asked me to share a verse with you, but instead
You kept walking by and giving my girl the eye
As I batted my eyes at what stood before me,
All of you and then some,
Your flirtation begun....”say word, what’s up with your
Girl...”

~ Adrienne Thomas

~ Destiny

My surroundings are dead mentally
They filled with hostility
But peacefully
I remain daily
since it’s my true identity
Even though I am in misery
I don’t beg for no sympathy
Always the same is my destiny
To live in harmony
With the heavenly

~ Lawrence Guy Louhisdon

~

i’m soaring
reaching heights unknown
freeing my soul
all that i’ve strived for
is within my reach
and as much as i wish
that you were up here with my me
i’ve realized it’s to hard to teach
someone with their feet planted so firmly
in the ground
how to fly...

~ Kat Noel



The Onyx Informer

Upcoming Issues

Black History Month/ Love Issue

February 9th, 2004

Women's Month/ Men's Issue

March 8th 2004

Reflections/ Senior Issue April 29th, 2004

Want to write for The Onyx Informer? email us at onyxinformer@yahoo.com